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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Production and Marketing Administration  
Marketing Facilities Branch  
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October 1947

States of Origin for Estimated Major Movements of  
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables During the Month of October 1947

The refrigerator car situation, in general, is "becoming very difficult" according to the Association of American Railroads. The seriousness of the situation is brought out by the fact that last year when fresh fruit and vegetable loadings were approximately 34,000 cars per week on the average, the shortage of refrigerators was no greater than it is now when the loadings are somewhat less. One of the primary reasons for this shortage is the fact that there are now many "serviceable" cars that are yet unsuitable for the loading of fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports that important acreages of fall vegetables were located in the path of the hurricane and both rain and wind damage to these was severe. Snap beans, tomatoes, eggplant, peppers and cucumbers all suffered severely. Replanting will be necessary in some areas and the crop delayed as much as six weeks in some instances. Citrus fruits in the immediate path of the hurricane were heavily damaged but the full force of the storm missed the principal citrus area of the State. However, some of the fruit was badly scarred and scratched because of the high winds that buffeted the trees for two days and may cause heavier than normal "drop" later in the season.

Loading in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas has started and the crop is extremely heavy. Estimates indicate that approximately 3,500 cars will be required to move the potatoes out of Maine. Potatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, onions and celery will move in volume from the Middle Atlantic Region; apples, cabbage, onions and potatoes in quantity from the Great Lakes States; potatoes from the North Central Region; potatoes and onions from the Rocky Mountain Region; apples, onions, lettuce, pears and potatoes from the North Pacific Region; grapes, oranges, lettuce, tomatoes, mixed vegetables, lemons and carrots from the South Pacific Region; grapefruit, oranges and mixed citrus fruits from Florida.

Our estimates indicate that approximately 90,639 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables will be shipped during October 1947 compared with 78,315 estimated to have moved during the month of September 1947. This is a decrease of 3.4 percent as compared with the 93,830 carloads shipped during October last year.

With the refrigerator car supply in practically all major fruit and vegetable loading areas extremely tight and the seasonal increase in perishable loadings getting close to peak, there is considerable danger of severe shortages unless special effort is made to eliminate any possible delay in handling.

The principal loadings as estimated to move during October 1947 are listed below by State of origin and region.

North Pacific Region

Commodity	Estimated carloads		
	Washington	Oregon	Idaho
Apples	7,300	325	800
Pears	2,300	1,300	-
Potatoes	594	774	3,600
Lettuce	30	700	1,000
Onions	65	350	500

A total of 20,273 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables are estimated to move from this region during the month of October.

South Pacific Region

Commodity	Estimated carloads	
	California	Arizona
Grapes	12,500	-
Oranges	6,000	-
Lettuce	4,300	1
Tomatoes	3,800	2
Mixed vegetables	1,800	-
Carrots	1,090	10

South Pacific Region (Cont'd.)

Commodity	Estimated carloads	
	California	Arizona
Lemons	1,600	4
Potatoes	810	-
Celery	600	-
Honey dew melons	460	-
Pears	220	-
Onions	300	-

Approximately 34,751 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables are expected to move during this month from the South Pacific Region.

Rocky Mountain Region

Total estimated rail shipments to move from this region during October 1947 are 4,636 carloads. Those of the greatest expected volume are:

Commodity	Estimated carloads	
	Colorado	Utah
Potatoes	1,742	265
Onions	800	100
Apples	500	35
Mixed vegetables	365	2
Celery	15	250

North Central Region

We estimate that an aggregate of 6,042 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables will originate for shipment in this region during the month of October 1947. Those to move in the greatest volume will be:

Commodity	Estimated carloads		
	Minnesota	Nebraska	North Dakota
Potatoes	1,130	815	3,434
Onions	340	-	5

Southwestern Region  
(excluding Texas)

The estimated shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables to originate in this region will total 1,669 carloads. Those in greatest volume will be:

Commodity	Estimated carloads	
	Louisiana	New Mexico
Sweet potatoes	623	5
Carrots	-	400
Beans, snap or lima	175	-
Cucumbers	150	-
Mixed vegetables	95	20

Great Lakes Region

The estimated carload shipments to originate in this region during October 1947 are approximately 4,567. Those most important in volume will be:

Commodity	Estimated carloads		
	Illinois	Michigan	Wisconsin
Apples	500	600	135
Cabbage	2	30	700
Celery	-	160	-
Cranberries	-	-	170
Onions	4	600	90
Potatoes	37	437	483
Tomatoes	9	125	9

In addition to the above, 175 carloads of tomatoes are expected to originate in Ohio and 70 cars in Indiana.



New England Region

Carlot shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables to originate in the New England Region during October are estimated to aggregate approximately 3,778. The principal movements will be:

Commodity	Estimated carloads		
	Maine	Massachusetts	Connecticut
Potatoes	3,116	270	20
Cranberries	-	280	-

Middle Atlantic Region

An estimated total of 7,785 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables will be shipped from the Middle Atlantic States during October. The principal carloadings will be:

Commodity	Estimated carloads		
	New York	New Jersey	Pennsylvania
Potatoes	2,500	1,553	65
Cabbage	900	-	1
Cauliflower	725	3	-
Celery	500	-	-
Onions	500	-	-
Carrots	300	-	-
Apples	60	20	50

In addition to the above, it is estimated that 250 carloads of apples will be shipped from West Virginia, 50 carloads from Maryland, and 86 carloads of sweet potatoes will move from Maryland, and 59 from New Jersey.

Southern Region  
(Excluding Florida)

It is estimated that the Southern Region will originate 1,107 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables during October 1947.

Commodity	Estimated carloads		
	Virginia	Tennessee	South Carolina
Apples	400	-	-
Beans, snap or lima	45	-	130
Sweet potatoes	265	62	45

Texas and Florida

It is estimated that Texas will move 1,234 carloads and Florida 5,797 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables during the month of October 1947. They will be principally:

Commodity	Estimated carloads	
	Florida	Texas
Oranges	3,000	150
Grapefruit	1,900	600
Mixed citrus fruit	600	200
Cucumbers	95	-
Mixed vegetables	90	70
Beans, snap or lima	90	10
Peppers	5	75

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